

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly for mechanically connecting first and second parts of a handheld electronic device, said modular hinge comprising ~~at least~~ two hinge elements, each hinge element comprising an arm and a boss with a through hole, at least one of which is configured for receiving wiring for electrically connecting the first and second parts, wherein wiring enters the hinge assembly along a first axis and exits the hinge assembly along a second axis that is different than the first axis, wherein said arm is being rotatably mounted on said boss, and wherein the hinge elements are pivotaly connected to ~~mounted on~~ a bracket ~~with said through holes in alignment~~.

2. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 1, wherein said through hole is 4 mm or larger.

3. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 1, wherein the arm of each hinge element has a circular cut out portion through which the boss extends, the circular cut out portion having an inner surface which slidably cooperates with an outer surface of the boss whereby the arm is supported on the boss and is rotatable relative to the boss.

4. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 1, wherein each hinge element further comprises an elastic member mounted on the boss for providing an urging force against a side surface of the arm to securely hold the arm on the boss.

5. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 4, wherein the elastic element is a spring.

6. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 1, further comprising third and fourth hinge elements, each hinge element comprising an arm and a boss with a through hole, wherein the bracket is a H-shaped bracket comprising a cross-piece and four lobes, each lobe having a circular cut out portion for mounting the bracket on an outer surface of a respective boss, wherein the bracket connects the four hinge elements together in the hinge module whereby the hinge module can fold though 360°.

7. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 1, wherein the bracket is a C-shaped bracket which connects three hinge elements together in the hinge module, wherein two of the hinge elements share a first axis of rotation and the axis of rotation of the third hinge element is perpendicular to the first axis of rotation.

8. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 7, wherein the C-shaped bracket comprises a cross-piece and two lobes, each lobe and the cross-piece having a circular cut out portion for mounting the bracket on three bosses with the two of the bosses mounted on the lobes of the C-shaped bracket forming a pair sharing the first ~~a common~~ axis of rotation.

9. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 8 wherein the modular hinge comprising a further bracket, said further bracket being mounted to the third boss which does not share the first axis of rotation, thereby linking the C-shaped bracket and the further bracket.

10. (Currently amended) A modular hinge assembly according to claim 9, wherein the further bracket is a second C-shaped bracket having a cross-piece and two lobes, each lobe and the cross-piece having a circular cut away portion for mounting the bracket on three bosses with two of the bosses mounted on the lobes of the C-shaped bracket forming a pair sharing a

common axis of rotation and the third boss being common with the third boss mounted to the first C-shaped bracket.

11. (Currently amended) A set of hinge elements and at least one bracket for constructing a modular hinge assembly from selected hinge elements from the set, each hinge element comprising an arm and a boss with a through hole for receiving wiring for electrically connecting first and second parts of a handheld electronic device, each of said arms being rotatably mounted on a respective said boss, and wherein the hinge elements are mountable on the bracket, wherein wiring enters the hinge assembly through at least one through hole and exits the hinge assembly through at least one different through hole, and wherein the wiring enters the hinge assembly along a first axis and exits the hinge assembly along a second axis that is different than the first axis ~~with said through holes in alignment.~~

12. – 19. Canceled

20. (New) A modular hinge for mechanically connecting first and second parts of a handheld electronic device, said modular hinge comprising at least two hinge elements, each hinge element comprising an arm and a boss with a through hole for receiving wiring for electrically connecting the first and second parts, said arm being rotatably mounted on said boss, and wherein the hinge elements are rigidly connected by a bracket;

wherein the bracket is a C-shaped bracket which connects three hinge elements together in the hinge module, wherein two of the hinge elements share a first axis of rotation and the axis of rotation of the third hinge element is perpendicular to the first axis of rotation;

wherein the C-shaped bracket comprises a cross-piece and two lobes, each lobe and the cross-piece having a circular cut out portion for mounting the bracket on three bosses with the two bosses mounted on the lobes of the C-shaped bracket forming a pair sharing the first axis of rotation;

wherein the modular hinge comprising a further bracket, said further bracket being mounted to the third boss which does not share the first axis of rotation, thereby linking the C-shaped bracket and the further bracket; and

wherein the further bracket is a second C-shaped bracket having a cross-piece and two lobes, each lobe and the cross-piece having a circular cut away portion for mounting the bracket on three bosses with two of the bosses mounted on the lobes of the C-shaped bracket forming a pair sharing a common axis of rotation and the third boss being common with the third boss mounted to the first C-shaped bracket.

21. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a first hinge comprising at least one hinge element comprising an arm and a boss with a through hole, wherein the first hinge is fixed to a first portion of an electronic device;

a second hinge comprising at least one hinge element comprising an arm and a boss with a through hole, wherein the second hinge is fixed to a second portion of the electronic device; and

wiring electrically connecting the first portion with the second portion;

wherein the first hinge and the second hinge cooperate to allow movement of the first portion of the electronic device relative to the second portion of the electronic device along at least one pivot axis, and

wherein the wiring enters the first hinge from the first portion of the electronic device through the through hole of the first hinge along a first wiring axis and enters the second portion of the electronic device from the second hinge through the through hole of the second hinge along a second wiring axis that is different from the first wiring axis.

22. (New) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the arm of each hinge element has a circular cut out portion through which the boss extends, the circular cut out portion having an inner surface which slidably cooperates with an outer surface of the boss whereby the arm is supported on the boss and is rotatable relative to the boss.

23. (New) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein each hinge element further comprises an elastic member mounted on the boss for providing an urging force against a side surface of the arm to securely hold the arm on the boss.

24. (New) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the elastic element is a spring.

25. (New) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the first hinge further comprises a second hinge element comprising an arm and a boss with a through hole, wherein the second hinge further comprises a second hinge element comprising an arm and a boss with a through hole, and wherein the first hinge is pivotally connected to the second hinge by an H-shaped bracket comprising a cross-piece and four lobes, each lobe having a circular cut out portion for mounting the bracket on an outer surface of a respective boss, wherein the bracket connects the four hinge elements together in a hinge module whereby the hinge module can fold though 360°.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the first hinge comprises a second hinge element comprising an arm and a boss with a through hole, wherein the first hinge and second hinge are connected by a C-shaped bracket forming a hinge module, wherein the two hinge elements of the first hinge share a first axis of rotation and the axis of rotation of the hinge element of the second hinge is perpendicular to the first axis of rotation.

27. (New) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the C-shaped bracket comprises a cross-piece and two lobes, wherein the each of the hinge elements of the first hinge are attached to a respective lobe and wherein the second hinge is attached to the cross-piece.